

Reservoir and Forebay Statistics

San Luis Reservoir

Gross Capacity .....	2,027,840 acre-feet
Federal capacity .....	965,660 acre-feet
State capacity .....	1,062,180 acre-feet
Shoreline .....	65 miles
Surface area .....	12,520 acres
Maximum depth .....	274 feet
Length of dam .....	18,600 feet
Height of dam .....	385 feet
Dam crest elevation .....	554 feet

O'Neill Forebay

Gross capacity .....	56,430 acre-feet
Shoreline .....	12 miles
Surface area .....	2,700 acres
Maximum depth .....	40 feet
Length of dam .....	14,350 feet
Height of dam .....	88 feet
Dam crest elevation .....	233 feet

California Department of  
Water Resources' Mission...

*To manage the water of California, in cooperation  
with other agencies, to benefit the state's people and  
protect, restore and enhance the natural and  
human environments.*

San Luis Joint-Use  
Complex



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Secretary for Resources  
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Director  
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The State Water Project

Planned, constructed and operated by the California Department of Water Resources, the State Water Project (SWP) is the largest state-built, multipurpose water project in the U.S. The Project includes 29 storage facilities, 18 pumping plants, four pumping-generating plants, five hydroelectric power plants and approximately 660 miles of canals and pipelines. Its main purpose is water supply — that is, to divert and store surplus water during wet periods and distribute it to areas of need in Northern California, the San Francisco Bay area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and Southern California. Other project purposes include flood control, power generation, recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement, and

water quality improvement in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.  
Twenty-nine water contractors, the urban and agricultural water agencies that buy water from the State Water Project, have long-term contracts for an ultimate total of just over four million acre-feet a year. Approximately 70 percent of SWP water goes to urban users and 30 percent to agriculture users.

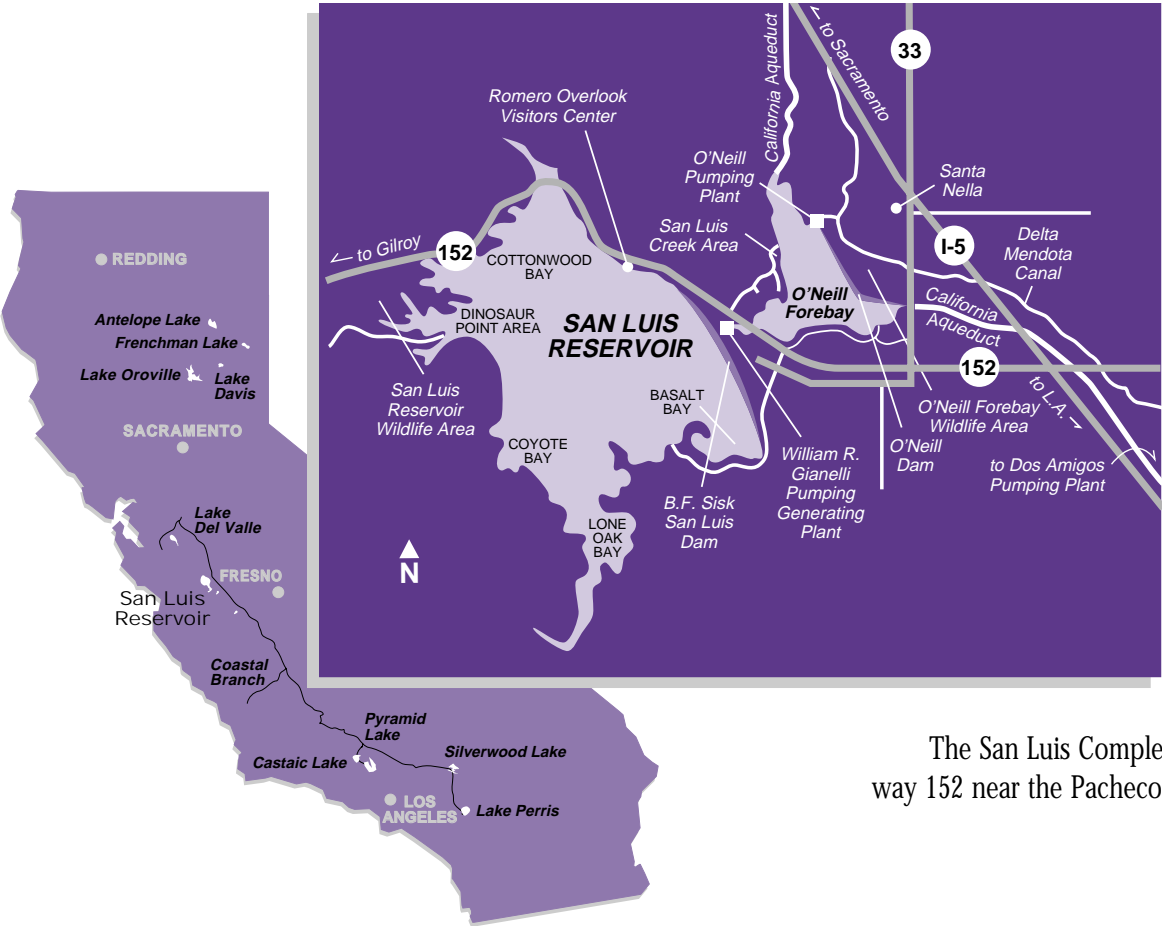
San Luis Joint-Use Complex

The San Luis Joint-Use Complex serves the California State Water Project and the Federal Central Valley Project (CVP). The complex is operated and maintained by the California Department of Water Resources, which paid 55 percent of the construction costs. The U.S. Bureau

of Reclamation, builder and operator of the Central Valley Project, constructed the complex and paid the remaining 45 percent of the cost.

Joint-use complex includes O'Neill Dam and Forebay, Sisk Dam, San Luis Reservoir, Gianelli Pumping-Generating Plant, Dos Amigos Pumping Plant, and a 103 mile portion of the California Aqueduct.

The San Luis Complex is located off Highway 152 near the Pacheco Pass.



History of Construction

On August 18, 1962, President John F. Kennedy led the official groundbreaking ceremonies for the San Luis Joint-Use Complex. The event was the result of a 1961 agreement between California and the U.S. to build the facilities, since both state and federal water projects required the development of the San Luis Dam site for storage of surplus flows pumped from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The agreement integrated storage, pumping-generating and conveyance facilities for state and federal water operations.

Construction of the San Luis and O'Neill Dams was begun in 1963 and was completed in 1967. Although water was first pumped into San Luis Reservoir for storage on April 12, 1967, it was filled for the first time on May 31, 1969.



Sisk Dam impounds the largest off-stream storage reservoir in the United States.

San Luis Reservoir

Located in the eastern foothills of the Diablo Mountain Range, San Luis Reservoir, is the largest off-stream reservoir in the United States. (An off-stream reservoir is a reservoir filled with water pumped from a source other than its natural watershed.)

As part of the joint-use complex, the reservoir holds surplus water diverted from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for subsequent delivery to the San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, and the federal San Felipe Project in San Benito and Santa Clara counties. During winter and spring, surplus water from rainfall and snowmelt flows through the Delta and is pumped into the California Aqueduct (SWP) and the Delta Mendota Canal (CVP). Water then flows to O'Neill Forebay and into San Luis Reservoir via the Gianelli Pumping-Generating Plant. When surplus Delta flows are insufficient to supply the State and federal water project needs, water is released back into the forebay for delivery by the two projects.

The San Luis Reservoir can store a total of 2,027,840 acre-feet, of which 1,062,180 acre-feet is the State's share. (An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, the average amount of water up to two families use in a year.)

Facility Names

Gianelli Pumping-Generating Plant, located between San Luis Reservoir and O'Neill Forebay, is named for the former director of the California Department of Water Resources (1967-73). He is credited with completing the initial phase of the State Water Project, which included the first deliveries of water to southern California.

Sisk Dam, which retains San Luis Reservoir,



The San Luis Reservoir, is visited by people from around the world.

was named to acknowledge the role of former Congressman Bernard F. Sisk of Fresno, who had been a prime supporter of the Central Valley Project and California water development. He introduced the federal legislation authorizing the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project.



Gianelli Pumping-Generating Plant pumps into and generates power from releases out of San Luis Reservoir.

Recreation

On O'Neill Forebay, you can boat, wind surf, fish, swim, jet ski and water ski. Camp sites are available along the O'Neill Forebay shoreline and

at the Basalt area, which also has a boat launching ramp and a picnic area near the south end of Sisk Dam. On the west end of the reservoir, you will find the Dinosaur Point Boat Launching area. As part of the San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area, these facilities are operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.



Swimming is a popular sport at O'Neill Forebay's San Luis Creek Area.

Since wind conditions can change rapidly, boaters should heed wind warning lights mounted on the roof of the visitors center and on shores of both O'Neill Forebay and San Luis

Reservoir. A yellow light means you should exercise great care; a red light signals danger—you should stay off or get off of the reservoir.

In O'Neill Forebay, trophy size bass have been caught.

Visitors Center

In the Romero Overlook Visitors Center, pictures, graphic wall displays, movies, slide shows, and videotape presentations tell the story of the State Water Project, the federal Central Valley Project—and how they are combined at the San Luis Complex. Telescopes at the center offer spectacular views of the area. The visitors center, staffed by Water Resources guides, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no charge for your visit. For tour information, call (209) 826-0718 ext. 253.

Visit DWR's Website at <http://www.dwr.water.cagov/>

If you need this publication in an alternate form, contact the Office of Water Education at 1-800-272-8869.



Romero Visitors Center, located in Santa Nella, receives about 200,000 visitors a year.